called "Data on Offences" to nab offenders involved in smuggling, evasion of customs duty and other offences;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Customs Department has already installed this equipment at various airports and if so, the details thereof, and offenders opprehended by the authorities after the installation of this equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Neither has such a software been developed nor such an equipment installed at airports to nab offenders automatically involved in smuggling/evasion of duty and other offences. However, Mumbai Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate has developed a software for storing the data on offences committed by the offenders involved in smuggling/evasion of duty and other offences. Similarly, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and some of the other Customs Commissionerates have developed need based software mainly for storage of information about seizure, confiscation etc.

High cost debt of State Governments

1397. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have placed a demand before the Central Government to provide more relief to them in terms of retiring their high cost debt and swapping it with fresh low cost borrowings;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have cleared a diluted, back-to-back debt swap plan which seeks to retire Rs. 25,000 crore of high cost debt of State Government;

(c) whether Central Government have asked States to curb debt build-up through Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme (MTFRP); and

(d) if so, to what extent State Governments have welcomed this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The

Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers headed by Dr. Asim Kumar Dasgupta, Finance Minister, West Bengal have in their Memorandum, listed problems being faced by States. These, inter-alia, included large interest burden, due to States having to pay higher interest rate on central loans as compared to average cost of borrowings of Central Government.

(b) To enable States to supplement their efforts towards fiscal consolidation, the Government of India have proposed a debt swap mechanism to facilitate States to utilize the additional 20% net collections of small savings disbursable to States during current year i.e. 2002-03, for retiring high cost debt of States restricted to Government of India's loans and advances. Those States agreeable to debt swapping during the current year would be allowed additional market borrowing to enable them to retire further high cost debt.

(c) and (d) The Government of India in accordance with the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission have created the Fiscal Reforms Facility, 2000-01 to 2004-05, under which the States are enjoined to draw up their Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme (MTFRP) aimed at fiscal consolidation and where performing States are eligible for incentive fund thereunder. Prudential debt limits are agreed to by the States under the MTFRP. So far the MTFRP of 16 States have been finalised.

Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

1398. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that failure to enforce Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) laws entails huge revenue loss in the country, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to protect the manufacturers of genuine products and to save the consumer from duplicate products; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide training to judicial and police officers in tall aspects of implementation of I.P.R. Laws; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.